35¢

the COMIC READER

DECEMBER, 1964

No. 32

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMY OF COMIC BOOK FANS & COLLECTORS
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GLEN JOHNSON, BOX 126, CROWNPOINT, NEW MEXICO 87313

ALLEY says, "Be sure to vote in the 1964 ALLEY AWARD POLL."*
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T.C.R. #32 is a non-profit monthly amateur fanzine published for the enjoyment of comic fans everywhere. TCR sells for 25¢ per issue, suporting members of THE ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK FANS & COLLECTORS may receive TCR for 20¢ per issue. If you wish further information about the Academy, write Paul Gambaccini, 8 Elizabeth Dr., Westport, Conn., 06882. It might be wise to send Paul a stamped addressed envelope if you want a reply.

All material to appear in TCR should reach me by the first of the month. It is advised that those wishing to place ads within the pages write and confirm the issue the ad appears in. Ads for other fanzines will be excepted only in half page length. The cost for the immediate future is $1.00 and do not necesarily need to be on a master. Classified ads must be full page, and on a master. Only complete print runs are excepted. The cost of full page ads is $2.00.

As Editor, I solicite all material concerning comic orientated material, but now state that I'm under no obligation to print such, only to return at my earliest convenience if you so wish. Those willing to contribute art, I must ask that it cover only a half of a page. An example of this was the Spiderman illustration seen in TCR #31.

TCR is the only fanzine mailed FIRST CLASS to insure speedy delivery to you. TCR no longer requires the subscriber to send s.a.e.'s, but the editor does appreciate this as it makes my job quicker and easier. If you want to have TCR mailed in a large manila envelope, you must send these, and add 5¢ postage to cover the cost of heavier mail. PLEASE, no subscriptions beyond #36.

The cost of TCR mailed AIR MAIL is 25¢ extra for those living in the U.S. or Canada. Those living outside the U.S. and Canada can write for rates of Air Mail.

Back issues: incomplete issues of #26, 5¢. None of #27, copies of #28-31, 25¢.

I would like to borrow issues of All-Star #'s 40, 54-57. These are needed for the JSA series I'm doing for A-E.-Glen.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS ISSUE:

Paul Gambaccini	Alley Awards
Jeremy A Barry	Fanzine Review
Fred Harman	Red Ryder
Jerry Pritchett	OTDB illo
Howard Keltner	cover
Robert Jennings	Information Center
Raymond Miller	Info. Center illos
L.L. Simpson	Texas Trio Meet
Steve Ditko	Spiderman/Dr. Strange
Ed Lahmann	Ten Top Artists
Ronn Foss	Alley Oop & Warrior of Llarn

My family and I leave Crownpoint the night of the 18th for L.A. Hopfully I will sepnd a day with fans from L.A. On the 20th we'll leave for Hawaii to spend two weeks with my wifes family. We will return from Hawaii on Jan 2nd. If there is any correspondence, please try to write before the 18th or wait until Jan. Due to spending two weeks in Hawaii, the next issue (TCR #33) might be late. -Glen

(over)

Dear Larry,

The Texas Tire owes me $1.00 for the ad. I'll take 55¢ #4+5 in place of the $1.00.

Sincerely
Celen

THE 1964 ALLEY AWARDS POLL

One of the highlights of every year, as far as the Academy is concerned, is the annual poll it conducts to honor the outstanding achievements in both the pro and amateur ranks. This poll has become recognized as the definitive barometer of organized fandom's tastes in the events of 1964. To cast your vote in this important poll, please read the following instructions carefully---there have been changes!

1. One does not have to be a Supporting member of the Academy to vote. However, he must cast his ballot on the official sheets.

2. In all categories except those designated, place a check or "X" mark in the blank next to the nominee you are selecting as the oustanding entry in that category. (To narrow the field down to a reasonable number of entries, the Executive Board of the Academy of Comic Books Fans and Collectors recently nominated these top candidates.) Make only one selection, please; if you feel you cannot decide, don't vote in that category.

3. Write-in categories are designated as such. In these, write in your selection in that category.

4. Please note the change in scoring in the fanzine division.

5. In choosing the nominees, the Executive Bard considered comics dated between Jan. '63 to Dec. '64, including Dec'63-Jan '64 bi-monthly issues and excluding Dec. '64-Jan. '65 bi-monthly issues. Take note of this consideration, if necessary, in your "Worst Comic" write-in.

6. Note the explanation with each category.

&7. Final ballots are also available from the Executive Secretary of the Academy (Paul Gambaccini, 8 Elizabeth Dr., Westport, Conn. 06882) for 10¢, so if you know fans who do not receive TCR, please notify them that they may obtain a ballot in this fashion. Urge all fans to vote. (FOREIGN FANS - 25¢)

8. ATTENTION! This year, a new Tally system is being utilized to facilitate quick counting of votes. This year, there will be four Tally Masters: Jim Rossow, Dave Kaler, Jerry Bails, and Paul Gambaccini. These four donated their services. If you live in Indiana, California, Florida, Missouri, or Texas, send your completed ballot to JIM ROSSOW, 906 BEALE STREET, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA. If you live in Michigan, Washington (state), Illinois, or Ohio, send your vallot to JERRY BAILS, 22529 KARAM COURT, WARREN, MICHIGAN. If you live in New York State, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, or a foreign country, send your completed ballot to DAVID KALER, P.O. BOX 392, COOPER STATION, N.Y. 10003. ALL other completed ballots should be sent to PAUL GAMBACCINI, 8 ELIZABETH DRIVE, WESTPORT, CONN. 06882.

9. The deadline for the receipt by the respective Tally Master is Feb. 15, or Feb. 25 if you are living in a foreign country.

10. The Tally Masters will report to Paul Gambaccini, and the final tally will be revealed in the March TCR. Reserve your copy now!

11. ATTENTION! Supporting Memberships in the Academy are payable starting with the teturn of your ballot to your tally master. He will forward your name and address, along with your $2 membership, to the Executive Secretary. Or, you may send your $2 directly to the Executive Secretary. The benefits of supporting membership are many, and will be greater this year than ever before.

Before the actual ballot(and remember, only one ballot per person!), I'd like to take time at this point to review the benefits of supporting membership:

(1) Eligibility for serving on the Executive Board
(2) Eligibility in electing the Executive Board
(3) A half-price discount of Bill Spicer's FANDOM CATALOG, when this publication is offered for sale on a first-come, first-served basis.
(4) A 5¢ discount on every issue of THE COMIC READER.
(5) The price of 50¢ for a mint(that is, mailed in a manila envelope) copy of each issue of ALTER EGO, starting with #9, as compared to the normal 60¢.
(6) Reduced admission to the New York 1965 comicon(more on this next month in TCR).
(7) Use of Jerry Bails' Academy Microfilm Library.
(8) Use of the Academy fanzine library when it becomes operational.
(9) Discounts on all Academy publications(there definitely will be some that have not yet been announced), and on some other fanzines that, while not officially affiliated with the Academy, may give discounts to Supporting Members(such as the above AE and more to come).

And, there'll inevitably be something else that shows up! All it takes is $2, mailed to your tally master with your Alley Ballot---or mailed to me personally. Regardless, your membership will be recorded accurately and rapidly. The end of the "drive" is March 15, although memberships will be orderable/processed until the beginning of next year's drive. Nevertheless, you might as well do it now, and begin to get your benefits immediately.

About Bill Spicer's FANDOM CATALOG, previously mentioned: Bill is publishing a non-partisan offset "catalog" of fandom, with an article on the history of fandom and many full-page ads. This zine, which, since it is non-partisan, will hopefully be plugged in pro comics, will be geared to anticipate a fan reaction of about 1000. A few hundred extra copies will be offered for sale to fandom as a whole sometime in the future, so keep your eyes on the lookout. However, the main point of this is to inform faneds and dealers that they may purchase a full-page ad(ads only in full-page blocks) space for $10. All inquiries should be directed to Bill, whose address was in the previous issue. However, do not bomb him with orders or silly questions at the moment.

The Executive Board is currently considering several key proposals. The fruits of their discussions through letters and FORUM will be carried in future issues of TCR, along with all otherAcademy news. More and more, TCR is becoming indispensable.

Remember, in case you missed it: completed ballots go to---

IF YOU LIVE IN	TALLY MASTER
Ind., Calif., Fla., Mo., Texas	JIM ROSSOW, 906 BEALE ST., SOUTH BEND
Mich., Wash., Ill., Ohio	JERRY BAILS, 22529 KARAM CT., WARREN, MICH.
NY, NJ, Penn., a foreign county	DAVE KALER, P.O. BOX 392, Cooper Station, NYC, 10003
Anyplace else	PAUL GAMBACCINI, 8 ELIZABETH DRIVE, WESTPORT, CONN. 06882

And now, down to the business at hand---the 1964 AlleyAwards Poll.

CREEPY #2. Larry Ivie will write two more stories...The next issue will probably have some different artists. Frank Frazetta is off the staff of Creepy...He is definitely not drawing any more stories for it because of salary problems. (Tough brake for Frazetta fans). Al Williamson is deciding on whether to quit or stay with Creepy. Did you know that Larry Ivie drew approximately 1/3 of the "werewolf" story with Frazetta.

JLA. The March issue of the JLA is complete, and Superman, Hawkman and Batman are cover-featured. The role-call also includes the Atom, Wonder Woman & Snapper. That's right-no Flash or G.L. However, Julie and Gar were looking up old villains for their next JLA..."going back in history", as Gar said. Pied Piper, the Mask, Killer Moth and old foes of Aquaman and G.A. will be included. B&B. Metamorpho will have a second appearance in B&B, followed by the Batman-Green Lantern story. Bob Haney's written a third Metamorpho script, but they'll hold off on it 'till they see how the first two go. ARMY AT WAR-ENEMY ACE! The hero is a German flyer in World War I.

HAWKMAN. There's a scene in the next Hawkman that somehow passed the Code. Watch for it, it's near the end of the story.

MIGHTY HERCULES. A new cartoon series is out. Story credits go to Geo. Kashdam and Jack E. Miller, both editors at D.C. Hercules gets all his power from a ring he wears. Everytime the need arises, he slips on the ring, lightning bolts flash & he's off on another mission of good.

THE SHADOW. Watch for more pocket books of the Shadow. "The Shadow Strikes by Maxwell Grant, pen name for Walter Gibson just came out. It is reported that original stories may soon be published.

TARZAN. Gold Star Books, Inc. has just published three 'new' unauthorized Tarzan novels by an author who calls himself Barton Weper. The company is in the same town as Charlton, and the news source who sent this item was wondering if there might be some connection.

N.Y. DAILY NEWS. Dale Mesrick, creator of THE NEWS comic strip, Brenda Starr, quests on ACB-TV's daytime show, Missing Links, Nov. 27th.

SUPERMAN & FAMILY. The next SUPERBOY GIANT features-"The Helpless Hero", "Journey of the Second Superboy", "Impostor from the Year 2958", "The Splitting of Superboy", "Dreams of Doom," "How Luthor Met Superboy". The Superman Giant will be all Luthor. But before either of these comics are out, a Flash Giant will feature "Flash of Two Worlds"-plus the Pied Piper, Dr. Alchemy, Grodd and Capt. Boomerang. The March and April Adventure carries a 2-part Legion Tale. It is reported that Schaffenberger has done a great job on a Supergirl story for the April Lois Lane. In the April issue of Superman and Superboy, Superman goes into the past, and the boy of steel goes into the future to learn a descendant of his has been executed for murder. Also, Mxyzptlk changes his name to Mxypyxm-which reads the same backward, so he can't return to the 5th demension. The April Action has "Clark Kent in the Big House".

MARVEL. It is unlikely that Don Rico will write stories for any other strip than Dr. Strange, and will probably not ever do art for Marvel. Jack Kirby is still too busy doing such a large volumn of penciling that he will have no time to ink his own work...Bob Powell, artist who once worked at M.E. will also illustrate Giant-Man besides the Torch and Thing. The reason George Tuska never took over the Torch as announced was that he didn't have the time Marvel thought he would.

CHARLTON. Jerry Pritchett, who ordered John Mann, (Son of Vulcan) received "Mysteries of Unexplored Worlds", and assumes that this title will be dropped, and that John Mann will appear in the Feb. issue. In my opinion, it looks as if Charlton is abandoning some of its less popular titles in favor of new material. If you will recall, "Fightin' Five" was formerly the Space War. CAPTAIN ATOM will be on sale in March for certain. This will be an anthology of the Captain Atom stories, including the origin, as drawn by Steve Ditko. As editor of more than 50 comics, Pat Masulli doesn't have the time to answer any mail from fandom. He has been besieged by phone calls and letters. He writes, "When the time is appropriate I will contact the zines...until then the door is CLOSED!" It might be wise to give him a breather and let him regroup his thoughts.

E.C. Out in December will be the first paper back called "TALES FROM THE CRYPT". In March it will publish "TALES OF THE INCREDIBLE". Both of these books will be published by Ballantine and Frazetta will illustrate both covers. By the way, one of the stories was rejected by the CCA and the other three were from unpublished 3-D comics.

WORLD'S FINEST. The May issue has Batman and Superman tracking down each other's identities after forgetting them hypnotically.

ON THE DRAWING BOARD, TCR SCOOP LINE,
by G. Pacinda

Two years ago when Dell lost over 90% of her comic line, it looked as though one of the oldest labels in the comic-book industry would soon altogether disappear. This is not the case as long-time TCR readers will know. Here's some of the latest from Dell:

NO TIME FOR SARGEANTS, BEWITCHED, 12 O'CLOCK HIGH, DR. KILDARE and BEN CASEY. These of course are all based on popular TV series.

F.B.I. - a "must" book, illoed by Joe Sinnott. Sideline about the cover. Originally the idea was to have an FBI man smashing his badge right at the reader. This had to be changed since FBI rules won't permit the publisher to use the badge as such.

TOKA - #2 (new on sale) has a very good cover by Jack Faragasso. #3 just for a change will have a line drawn cover by interior artist, Frank Springer. (By the way, what kind of covers do fans prefer? TCR will offer a prize...DELL original art, either line or painted...for any fan who can really prove his views! Pros as well as fans really want to know this answer. Why not write-in on the ALLEY AWARDS: What kind of covers are best??) ((Instead of writing me about the prize mentioned above, send all letters to George Pacinda, Mt. Bethel Rd., Warren Twnsp/ plainfield, N.J. I know nothing of the proposed contest, and I'll let George handle it. Since the Alley Awards are carried in this issue, I suggest that no write-ins should appear without the approval of the EX. Sec.-ed.))

OUTER LIMITS-#4 will involve a tale about some kids fooling around with toy rockets and accidentally dropping one of their rockets on an invading enemy spaceship. Art and stories are below par this iss.

NAZA-for fans who couldn't guess the mystery artist on the cover of #4, it was none other than Gil Kane. Naza inside inkchopper, Jack Sparling (former Spaceman, and present artist of Eclipso) will do his first DELL cover on #5.

KONA-#14 will have a very good Vic Prezzio cover...story deals with a lost tribe of some sort 'neath the Anarctic Ice. Great S.J.G. art inside.

COMBAT-#16 unload the saga of the CHINA SEA. Another excellent Jack Faragasso cover and interior art by S.J.G.

AIR WAR STORIES-#3 will have a cover...mmm, well they all have covers, yes...but this will be A COVER. Vic Prezzio grabs the honors.
WORLD WAR STORIES-the first issue will be something great...for the record; Vic Prezzio on the cover art.
Just to get really complete (for once), if any fan cares to know! DELL's editor is Don Arneson, young, handsome, occasional writer, proofreader & leader. Mr. Arneson's chief assistant is Joe Chilly, layout and art director, occasional artist and color department! Mr. Chilly has been in the field for almost 15 years, while Mr. Arneson less than half that. Dell's letterers: Duffy Moeller and Charlette Jetter. Title logo department: Joe Chilly thinks 'em up, then either Alfredo Faistman or Paul Dzurella Studios perfect them. All wording on covers is a result of Arneson and Chilly. Oh, the writers are Paul Newman (Neuman...hope the spelling is correct!) for Air War Stories, Kona, Combat and Outer Limits: Don Siegel for Cheyenne Autumn, Alvin and Doc Kildare; and Carl Memling for Jungle War Stories and Ghost Stories.

Here's some stuff from WESTERN, probably all stale news:

Slated for upcoming features in BORIS KARLOFF is art by Al Williamson. Another big catch that's being fished for is Frank Frazetta. Bill Harris suggests the slight possibility of these two artisans teaming up...remember the terrific Williamson & Frazetta story in an issue of WEIRD SCIENCE #21 (E.C.)?

That's not the only possibility--if the FLASH GORDON reprint is successful, then issue #2 may be done original...with a new writer and artist (OR ARTISTS...and why not Al Williamson & Frank Frazetta for Flash Gordon?!?).

Dick Wood is still scripting SOLAR, and he'll be handling the original PHANTOM scripts.

Funny, but it seems obvious that if GOLD KEY has a Tarzan (done by Jesse Marsh) and CHARLTON has a Tarzan (done by Sam Glanzman), why doesn't a third company start a third Tarzan comic...and let Burne Hogarth set the whole mess straight!

* *

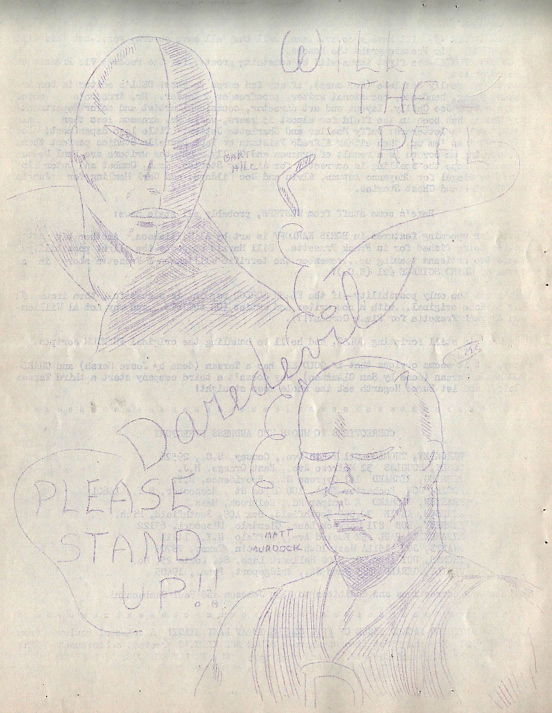
CORRECTIONS TO WHO'S WHO ADDRESS DIRECTORY

BIECKLEY, THOMAS 511 Tenth Ave., Conway, S.C., 29526
COSBY, DOUGLAS 32 Melrose Ave., East Orange, N.J.
FLEMING, RICHARD 141 Cypress St., Providence, R.I.
FOOTE, DON Rochester YMCA, 100 Gibbs St., Rochester, N.Y., 14601
FRAZIER, RICHARD 4 Juniper Rd., Holbrook, Mass.
JOHNSON, KEVIN 30,000 Southfield, Box 109, Southfield, Mich.
KENNEDY, BOB 871 Warwick Lane, Glendale, Missouri, 63122
RYBARCZYK, PAUL 52 Euclid Ave., Buffalo, N.Y., 14211
SWARTZ, JON 1511A West 10th St., Austin, Texas, 78703
THOMAS, ROY Apt. G, 3600 Hallmark Lane, St. Louis 25, Mo.
VASILY, GERALD 445 Ford St., Bridgeport, Penn., 19405

Send further corrections and additions to Glen Johnson and Paul Gambaccini.

* *

THE FIRST ACTIONED PACKED ISSUE OF EPIC COMICS IS AT LAST READY! A colossal review from ALL STAR #30! For the first time anywhere! SIMON AND KIRBY'S greatest achievement "The Green Arrow of Simon and Kirby!" And much more. OUR REALLY LOW COST IS ONLY 20¢.
RAY BARTEL 15733 VIRGINIA AVE., PARAMOUNT, CALIF., 90723


WILL THE REAL
Daredevil
PLEASE STAND UP!!
BART HILL
MATT MURDOCK

FOSS IN TEXAS

Throughout Texas the word had spread, "Ronn's coming!" So it was that upon the morning of Nov. 8, every comic fan mounted his gas buggy and spurred for Larry Herndon's home in Carrollton. But Ronn Foss beat us all, he had arrived at 5 A.M. Larry's father discovered him and Joy sleeping in their car when he awoke.//Soon after breakfast, the clan began to gather-Gary Acord, L.L. Simpson, Howard Waldrop, Gary Martin, and Buddy Saunders. Until only Howard Keltner remained absent; he had sent word he would be delayed until that afternoon. But already the talk had begun, as they say, to flow like wine. Subject-comic, writers, and artists, of course. At noon, Larry's mother smuggled in hamburgers, cokes, chips and cookies, (what a mother!!) and the conversation continued uninterrupted. //After Keltner's arrival, Ronn dipped into his bag of goodies. (How patiently we had waited). First, he produced photos, movies, and tapes made at fan meets he's attended from Bail's Rally Party to the Cleveland comiclave. Then he showed his BelleStar strip. Man, that's art. He followed with his vast collection of original art (1) JLA, (2) Manning's Ben Hur, (3) Sky Master, (4) Tarzan, (5) Kubert's Hawkman, (6) and more. We were gathered around now like hungry wolves.//But it was growing late and Ronn wanted pictures and tapes. Out came the cameras, and everyone trooped outside. Then back inside to gather around the recorder (Ronn wasn't the only one to have one). After the long session, Keltner informed that he had to leave and Ronn began packing his goodies. Meeting adjourned.

L.L. Simpson

* *

Continued from "Info Center" page 4 (TNT question)

their bodies for a brief period. The last panel dramatically states: "So TNT and Dan the Dyna-mite are born to challenge evil--their secret of atomic energy concealed in the rings they wear. Separate - an ordinary man and boy, but together-the most irrisistable combination of explosive forces the world has ever seen!!!"

* *

Can anyone tell me the last issue of Prize before it became PRIZE WESTERN? I'd also like to know if Yank & Doodle were in this issue, if not, what was their last appearence? Also, who did the cover for Mona #13?

Sorry! In the last issue I didn't mention Charlton was the company to publish "Son of Vulcan".

* *

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Blue Beetle, Flame Charlton; Human Torch, Daredevil - Marvel; The Shadow, The Web- Archie; Robotman, Green Lantern, Johnny Cloud- D.C.; Alley Oop-N.E.A., INC.; Daredevil- Comic House, Inc.

NEWS CREDITS: Richard Rubenfeld, Jerry Pritchett, Jeremy Barry, Andy Zerbe, Dave Armstrong, Larry Herndon, George Pacinda, E. Nelson Bridwell, Ron Frandkin, Jerry Bails, Stan Lee and Steve Keisman. Winner for this months prize goes to Ron Fradkin, who continuelly aids "on the Drawing Board" with news each month.

IN CASE IT ISN'T THERE. Jerry Pritchett has offered to produce two pages (one sheet) of photo-off-set material. If it is not here by the 12th of December, TCR #32 will be mailed without these pages. In the next issue these pages will be mailed unattached to #33, and you can add these to #32. The contents are the original Ditko art and the first page of "On the Drawing Board" with the illo by Jerry.

PLEASE, no subscriptions beyond #36!

Please read the information listed below before ordering books.

The comics listed below are complete and in good to very good condition even though a few of the books may need a little repair work done with scotch tape. A prompt refund on all items already sold but alternate choices are appreciated. Refunds will only be given if there is a defect in the book. No orders will be accepted under $2. Orders $5 or over will be sent insured and no order under that amount will be sent insured unless a dime is sent for insurance, otherwise I will not be responsible for any books that are lost in the mail. Send for my next list.

No orders will be acknowledged under $5 unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. When making inquiries, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. When ordering, please send a check or money order as I cannot be held responsible if any money is lost in the mail.

c=coverless nbc= no back cover @ = each 3/4c = 3/4 of a cover

DC B OOKS

All Star #21, 22 10.00 @
All Star #25,26,29,39,31 9.50 @
All Star #43,44 (Black Canary) 9.00 @
The above books have the following: Green Lantern, Flash, Johnny Thunder, Dr. Fate, Hour Man, Sandman, Starman, etc,-all JSA

Batman #24 2.50
Boy Commandoes #11, 12 (Simon & Kirby) 4.50 @
Boy Commandoes Stories from Detective #138 & 141 .35 @
COMIC Cavalcade #15 (title gone) 3.50
Above has Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, Flash etc.
Flash #73 3.50
Has Johnny Thunder & Hawkman
More Fun #26 (1937), #34 (1938)-Seigel & Shuster, Barry O'Neill 6.00 @
More Fun #103, 105 (Superboy, Aquaman, Green Arrow, Johnny Qucik) 3.50 @
Picture Stories of the Bible, complete Old Testament Edition, 232 pages, 1943 2.50
Sensation #14 (1942) 4.50
Sensation #28,30-35 3.00 @
Above have Wonder Wo man, Wildcat, Mr. Terrific, Black Pirate, Gay Ghost, Sargon & Little Boy Blue & the Blue Boys
Superboy #4, 5, 7 3.00 @
Superboy #12, 14 2.50 @
Superman #3 (4 pgs out1940) 7.00
Superman #8, 9 7.00 @
Superman #17,19, 20-24 3.50 @
Superman #27-35 3.00 @
Superman #37, 38, 41, 44, 45 2.50 @
Superman #48, 49, 51, 52, 54,55 2.00 @
Star Spangled #33, 35 3.00 @
Star Spangled # 46, 47, 52, 53, 54, 55 2.00 @
Simon & Kirby's Newboy Legion with the Guardian, Liberty Belle, Robotman, etc.
Tomahawk #1 2.00
World's Finest # 19 2.50
World's Fair 1940 (Superman, Batman, Sandman, Johnny Thunder, Hourman, Zatara) 96 pages

QUALITY BOOKS

National #15-19 (1941-Unclse Sam, Quicksilver, Wonder Boy,etc. 5.50 @

INFORMATION CENTER

narrated by Robert Jennings. Information Center is a regular feature in COMIC WORLD (40¢; 50¢ flat from Robert Jennings, 3819 Chambers Drive, Nashville 11, Tenn. 37211)

Illustration by Raymond Miller

Information Center is a readership feature which will attempt to answer any and all questions pertaining to the comics field. We invite your questions to Information Center. Any question concerning any phase of comicdom may be asked, and each issue most interesting questions and answers will be printed in this column. If you have a question, simply type or write it on an index card, or on a piece of paper separate from your letter, and send it, along with one unused five cent stamp to help defray expenses, to Robert Jennings, 3819 Chambers Drive, Nashville 11, Tenn. In order to be fair about this, we are going to have to limit each person to three questions per five cent stamp. Much correspondence is required to run down the answers to these questions, and while the Information Center staff is interested in helping you whenever we can, postage costs have a way of mounting up in a surprising short time, and none of us is rich (that I know of anyway). If more than three questions are asked and only one five cent stamp is enclosed, only the first three questions will be considered. If you wish a personal reply to your questions, as many of you undoubtedly will, then please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope in addition to the unused five cent stamp(s). We don't promise to be able to answer every single question posed, but we certainly will try our best to supply the needed information. Corrections, offers of assistence, additional information and the like are always appreciated. With the ground rules out of the way, let's move on to some questions...

Thomas Lee Wilson starts off by asking, "What comics had JSA type stories and who appeared in them?"

From Raymond Miller, Rick Durell, Howard Keltner and Kenny Heinman, "There weren't as many of these groups as you might suspect. In addition to the Justice Society in ALL-STAR, DC produced LEADING COMICS, which carried the 7 Soldiers of Victory (sometimes called the Law's Legionaires) in the first fourteen issues. The membership consisted of Green Arrow and Speedy, Star Spangled Kid and Stripsey, Vigilante, Shining Knight and the Crimson Avenger, along with his side kick, Wing, who was the unofficial eighth legionaire."(For more information on this group, see Glen Johnson's article in COMIC WORLD #6.)

ALL WINNERS 19 and 21 was Timely's investment in the group story. There was no ALL WINNER #20, incidentally. This group starred Captain America and Bucky, Whizzer, Miss America, Human Torch and Toro, and Sub Mariner. Timely also had YOUNG ALLIES with Bucky and Toro along with a few other young non-costume youngsters, but his cannot truly qualify as a JSA type organization.

MASTER COMICS #41, August, 1943, had Captain Marvel Jr., Bulletman and Bulletgirl along with Minute Man together in the Minute Man story. WHIZ COMICS 29, April, 1942 and 34, Sept. 1942, had Captain Marvel and his three Lt. Marvels, there were some other issues of WHIZ with the Lt. Marvels also. And of course Fawcett had the MARVEL FAMILY with Captain Marvel, Mary and Captain Marvel Jr. battling crime every month. AMERICA'S GREATEST #4, Nov. 1942 had Captain Marvel, Spy Smasher, Golden Arrow, Lance O'Casey, Ibis and Taia in the lead Capt. Marvel story.

There was also a group story in PRIZE #24 in which the prize characters gathered to battle Frankenstein.

This is about the limit on the JSA type groups. Altho' few publishers dared to imitate the group success of the Justice Society almost everyone published a quarterly title, such as WORLD'S FINEST featuring individual stories of their top selling stars.

"Who wrote the following stories," asks Kim Weston, "Earth the Forbidden Planet (Strange Adventures 149), The Man who lived Forever (SA 145), and Escape from Earth (MIS)".

Art Lortie, "Earth--The Forbidden Planet" was scripted by John Broome and was featured in the Jan. 1963 issue of STRANGE ADVENTURES. It was penciled by Sy Barry (of the Phantom newspaper strip) and inked by Murphy Anderson. Both Broome and Anderson have done work on previous SA stories, but the only one I can recall being done by Sy Barry was "The 3 Minute Genius" from SA #48 (Sept. '54).

"The Man Who Lived Forever", the cover feature of SA Oct. 1962 was written by Gardner Fox and drawn by Murphy Anderson (pencils and inks) it told the story of Evans Talbot, a bio-physicist who travels back in time to stop himself from becoming immortal, in order to save the human race.

"Escape from Earth", which appeared in MYSTERY IN SPACE, August of 1960 was done by John Broome, with art by Murphy Anderson. It told of the efforts of a young earth couple to leave Earth to escape immortality.

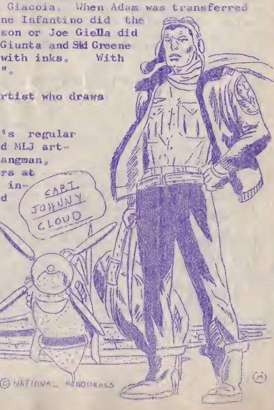
"Has Gardner Fox written all the Adam Strange stories", asks Kim Weston, who strongly threatens Terry Peters as our most persistent questioner.

Art Lortie has the answer. Gardner Fox wrote every story about Earth's first spacement under the editorial rule of Julius Schwartz (SHOWCASE 17-19, and MYSTERY IN SPACE 53-91). With #92 Jack Schiff, late of BATMAN and DETECTIVE, became editor. He assigned new writers to the strip, ((I've received this information regarding writers from Jack Schiff. "Adam Strange is being written for the most part, by Dave Wood"-Glen)), and while the writing has been fast moving, the stories so far failed to compare with the Adam Strange stories of the past.

The art on Adam Strange in SHOWCASE issues was done by Mike Sekowsky and Frank Giacoia. When Adam was transferred over to MYSTERY IN SPACE, Carmine Infantino did the pencils and either Murphy Anderson or Joe Giella did the ink. Towards the end John Giunta and Sid Greene helped on a few of the stories with inks. With #92 Lee Elias took over the art".

Ed Simpson asks, "Who is the artist who draws Johnny Cloud in MEN OF WAR?"

From Jerry Bails, "Johnny Cloud's regular artist is Irving Novick, the old MLJ artist, who handled the Shield, Hangman, Steel Sterling and various others at various times. Other artists, including Joe Kubert have handled the air ace."



"Could you give me any information on The Web (MLJ). He first appeared in ZIP COMICS #27, July, 1942. Any relation to Spiderman," asks Donald D. Ensign.

Reliable Raymond Miller has the answer, "The Web, no relation to Spiderman, appeared in ZIP COMICS 27-38, with his origin being given in #28. He was MLJ's last attempt at a costumed hero, and for a time he was one of their best. He was originally intended to begin in the July, 1942 issue of TOP NOTCH, but at the last minute TOP NOTCH became TOP NOTCH LAUGH COMICS, featuring Pokey Oakey and other humor strips. (However Black Hood was retained for many issues). The first few stories had beautiful art and stories, but after Novick took over The Web was just another costumed hero, because by this time Novick's work bore none of the brilliance he had displayed in 1940-41. The fact he was doing about a half dozen other characters undoubtedly caused some of this.

The Web was really Prof. John Raymond, a college teacher, who had laid the trap which captured his criminal brother, Tom Raymond. Then and there John decided to take on a mission in life to show criminals that they couldn't escape their own web of crime, and he became The Web. His secret was shared by a student named Rose Wayne. His costume was patterned after the original DAREDEVIL's, with one half yellow and the other half green."

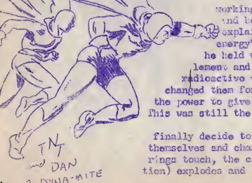
What is the origin of TNT and Dan and Dyna-Mite?

Art Lortie again, "Tex N. Thomas and Dan Dunbar, allies the super powered team of TNT and Dan the Dyna-Mite, appeared first in WORLD'S FINEST #5 (Spr., 1942), and were immediately switched over to STAR SPANGLED COMICS, where they appeared in issues 7 (Apr., 1942) thru #23 (Aug., 1943). Their stories and art were generally above par for that period, but they must not have been very popular, since they only lasted a year. Their origin appeared in SSC #8 (May, 1942) in a story titled "The Case of the Poison Parrot".

It seems that Tex N. Thomas was an instructor of physical training and chemistry at some unnamed high school. His star pupil, both on the track team and in the lab was young Dan Dunbar, who spent long hours after school in the chemistry lab performing experiments "Far more intricate than those given in the text-books".

One evening, while the pair are working on an experiment, their hands accidentally touch and both suddenly feel much stronger than before. Thomas explains that they have "charged ourselves with atomic energy". He explains further by saying that the mixture he held while contact was made was the positive energy element and the one Dan held was the negative. When they met radioactive vibrations passed thru their bodies and superchanged them for a few minutes, giving them super strength and the power to give off atomic flames. Not very scientific is it? This was still the age of miracles.

They ponder their new found power and finally decide to turn it against crime. They design costumes for themselves and change the mixture into two rings. When these two rings touch, the clothing of the pair (treated with a special solution) explodes and leaves the costumes worn underneath and charges



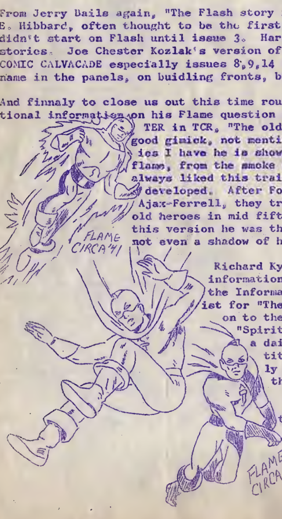
Thomas Luke Wilson asks, "What was the last Shelly Hawkman story and what was it about?"

From Jerry Bails, ""Shelly" Moldoff's last Hawkman story appeared in FLASH 61, and was a take off on Jack and the Beanstalk story, entitled, "The Grapevine to the Sky!" The floating city in the sky in this story was actually a space platform supporting would-be invaders from Saturn who intended to drop a deadly virus onto Earth. Of course, Hawk-Man puts a stop to that."

Kim Weston asks, "Did Kozlak pencil and ink the Flash story in FLASH # 79?"

From Jerry Bails again, "The Flash story in #79 was illoed by Everett E. Hibbard, often thought to be the first Flash artist. Actually he didn't start on Flash until issue 3. Harry Lampert did the first two stories. Joe Chester Kozlak's version of the Flash was most often in COMIC CALVACADE especially issues 8,9,14 & 15. Kozlak often "hid" his name in the panels, on buidling fronts, book covers and the like."

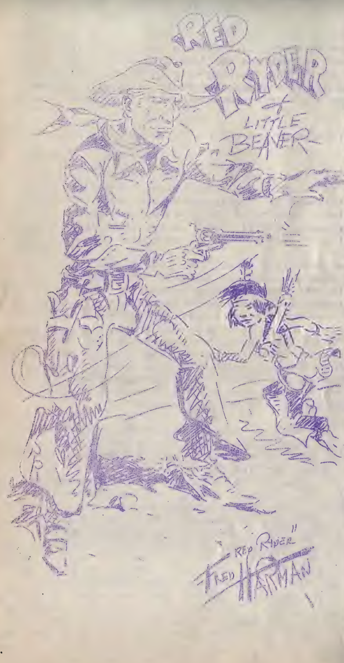
And finnaly to close us out this time round, Clay Kimball has additional information on his Flame question in the last INFORMATION CENTER in TCR, "The old Flame apparently had a very good gimick, not mentioned in the answer. In stories I have he is shown materializing from a match flame, from the smoke of a candle or the like. I always liked this trait, but apparently it never developed. After Fox changed its name and became Ajax-Ferrell, they tried to revive many of their old heroes in mid fifties, including the Flame. In this version he was the mildest of costume heroes, not even a shadow of his former self."



Richard Kyle also has some interesting information to add, "an added note for the Information Center: the original artist for "The Flame" was Lou Fine, who went on to the Quality group and ghosted the "Spirit" strip. Not long ago he had a daily newspaper strip, too, (whose titles escape me), but it was sadly inferior to his best stuff for the old days."

Charlton is planning to issue a new title, "Son of Vulcan", and this could be a revival of the original Flame since Charlton now owns all rights to the old Fox line.

End



RONN FOSS VISITS TCR

I imagine there was a lot of wonder as the Batmobile pulled into Crownpoint, N. Mex. late Monday night, Nov. 9. I'll leave you wondering about the Batmobile, and let Ronn tell of this in his trip report he is planning to write. Many fans, upon hearing of Ronn's visit, have asked that I write it up in TCR. Since Ronn will cover it in great detail, I'll be brief.

Before arriving in Crownpoint, Ronn visited with the TEXAS TRIO. He arrived late Monday night, and stayed until Thursday morning, then to see an old Army buddy in Arizona, and later to visit fans in the L.A. and San Francisco area.

Getting together with a large group of fans can be great fun but don't knock the idea of just two fans getting together. It can be just as much fun, and sometimes more can be covered. On Tuesday night, Ronn and I discussed fandom until 5 A.M.

Like most fan meets, it is very difficult to tell all we talked about. We discussed comic artists, writers, and other subjects covered at any meeting of fans Some of the items Ronn displayed are mentioned by L.L. Simpson covering Ronn's visit in Texas. We exchanged some original art & swapped a few comics and discussed Kubert as well as the E.C. line of artists.

Of course, THE WARRIOR OF LLARN, mentioned elsewhere was covered in great length.

Ronn's visit held up TCR #31 a little, but I still finished and mailed it with Ronn's help his last night here. I also had Ronn do numerous illos before leaving, and I hope the fans yelling for some Foss art within TCR will be happy.

Fill in some [illegible] in your comic book collection. Order now while the supply lasts. Orders under $1.25 send [illegible] for postage and handling. Send all orders with full amount to. Ed Barbarich * 8-12 122nd St.* College Point, L.I. N.Y. 11356

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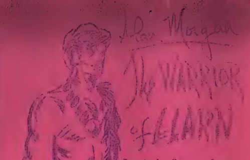

Just before Ronn Foss arrived at my home en route to the West Coast, I received a letter from Roy Thomas, directed to both Ronn and myself. Roy mentioned that a novel by Gardner Fox, WARRIOR OF LLARN, was to be illustrated in comic strip form by Ronn, adapted by Roy, with the authors' permission to use in A-E, or perhaps another amazine. I hadn't seen the novel until Ronn showed me his copy, and he explained further. Fox, who is no stranger to novels, wrote Warrior not unlike ERB's John Carter/Carson Napier stories, yet injected his own fine brand of telling a story. The first of a series, WARRIOR cover and frontpiece, was done by Frank Frazetta, popular Burrough's artist. Ronn admitted that his own finest work would fall short of Frazetta's yet he was so inspired by Gardner's WARRIOR that he'd spend more time and effort on the adaptation than he has spent on anything before. Roy quoted a letter from Fox to the effect that there was a possibility of the strip being sold to South American comics, which may include some payment for Ronn and Roy. // A second title Gardner Fox is working on is, "Thief of Llarn". I think Ronn will put a lot more into the first appearance of WARRIOR since the chances are very good that it may sell in South America. The only problem I see at this moment is how in the world will American fans get copies once it is printed south of the border?

FROM THE READERS

[illegible]
[illegible] Ave.
[illegible] N. C. 27243

Campaign against undelivered [illegible] tho you might extend it to the fan editors and [illegible] them list fen who constantly fail to receive mags. // The whole business of fan editors not mailing fan mags bugs me. The most of them are over priced to begin with and when the editor states that if your copy doesn't arrive--tough luck, then I rapidly lose interest in the mag. I don't read any fan-mag, no matter how good it is, if I don't like the editor: and I don't like editors who only sees his readers as 50¢ pieces. // Everyone keeps saying that fanning should be done for fun, not profit, and we should all work to make fandom grow, but how many people do you know who practice what they preach?

Jon K. Swartz
1511-A West 16th St.
Austin, Texas 78703

You and Jerry both seem concerned with undelivered fanzines. I'm also concerned. And I could supply you with a list a mile long. But almost every time I give up on a particular editor (after writing him a dozen times, and getting no reply), along comes the zine when I least expect it. [illegible] being an old faned myself, I know that can happen to even the best-intentioned editor. The ones who really burn me up are the ones who go [illegible] and say, "I sent it; it must have been lost in the mail." ((Jon goes on to name a few who seem to care nothing about sending zines ordered. The way I see it, if an issue is lost in the mail, it is still the zine eds business to send you another zine. You have paid for something you've not yet received. Since TCR is mailed first class, I'm able to say that at this time, not one person who has paid for TCR has written and told me he has not received his issue. One fan wrote and mentioned that a page was missing. If you are missing a page, or one is blank, send the page number, and if I have extra pages or issues, I'll send it with your next issue.))

George R. R. Martin
35 East First St.
Bayonne, N.J. 07002

TCR #29 was a pretty good issue, but admittedly not as terrific as #28. Actually, it is impossible for a zine like TCR to be anything but good, since the always-interesting pro news is always there in abundance and this is actually the heart of the zine. The other features, no matter how good, are just more or less bonuses; icing to the cake which is the news itself. Therefore, the varying quality of TCR is due entirely to the amount and qualities of the bonuses, since the basis, unchangingly reliable pro news, is always great. And this is why #29 fell short of the previous issue; the bonuses were lacking. ((I'm happy that some fans realize that TCR is a news letter. There will be special features in TCR when space and time allows and when I have something that is a special feature.))

Rick [illegible]
[illegible] E. Imperial Ave.
El Segundo, Calif.

Let's see if we can find out what comic company had the very first letter's to the editor page. [illegible] Target comics 1943 is a good start. ((Well, Rick, the same day I received your letter, the [illegible] of [illegible] arrived from Raymond Miller, "In TCR it is listed that Target has a letter's page as far back as 1943. I can take you back even farther. [illegible] had a letter page in 1941. Wings Comic did also.")) [illegible] a subject that has always been a sore spot with me. [illegible] [illegible] but never received. And I think you're [illegible]. [illegible]

bringing this up.// It's not so much the money that is lost on the non-received fanzines, even though it can add up to a pretty penny. By the time you send 50¢ say, for the fanzine, plus the 5¢ postage to send the 50¢ plus one or two letters, after waiting anywhere from 6 months to a year to get a fanzine (which I have done), well as you can see, you can end up paying 65¢ for nothing, and this is for only one fanzine not received. Anyway, as I was about to say, it's not so much the money, but the principle of the thing. I've found that most of these editors who do not send you the fanzine you ordered, will not even show the courtesy of answering your letters to them, asking nicely why you have not received their publication. There is no excusing this, as far as I'm concerned. If these editors would write me and say they are very sorry for the delay (a post card is all they need send), but it will be maybe another 6 months before I'll have the fanzine done, or even just put an ad in TCR or the likes, like Andrew Fraknio did, every now and then telling that his Comic-zine #1 would be a little late. This would be fine. Heck! I'll wait the rest of my life if I have to. But I expect to get, what I pay for. Money is too hard to come by, for me to just be giving it away. ((The following is one of the many troubles Rick writes about, and I'll change the name to protect the innocent(?).))/CRUD-ZINE #1 (P.O. Nofanzine) Ordered this one Sept., 1962. This character put an ad in a fanzine asking people to send him a self addressed envelope, and and he would refund them their money, as he was unable to put out Crud-zine after all. What's wrong with this you say? As it was, you already spent 4¢ in postage to send him the 20¢ for his fanzine, so now you are expected to spend 10¢ in stamps to get the 20¢ back. Again I say, NUTS. ((Well, Rick has many good points. I'm afraid that all of us who have ordered a fanzine have had these problems. I don't know of a cut and dried solution, does anyone? I intend to publish the names and fanzines that were undelivered next issue, if there is room and if I have a sufficent listing it might be published this issue. - ed.))

Murray Boltinoff
DC. Editor

As for the creation of THE DOOM PATROL, how are any character or team born? We had need for a new team or character. "My Greatest Adventure" was dragging along with occasional good sales, and we had to give it push. I had some unique characters in mind for some time, and Drake, Bob Haney, and I locked ourselves in the Writers' Room and kicked them around, discussed them, argued pro and con, refined them, dropped some characters in favor of others. Two days later, we came up with the team, which has proven to be a winning combination. THE DOOM PATROL did so well in "My Greatest Adventure" that the front office decided to change the name of the magazine to THE DOOM PATROL. It's been a hit from the start, I'm delighted to report.

Doug Potter
1506 Zuber Dr.
Galena Park, Texas
77547

Danny Cassidy must wear glasses with prisms for lenses to call Infantino an unrealistic artist. Joe Kubert is one of D.C.'s best and greatly surpasses anything Schiff's artists have to offer. Danny should commit suicide by stabbing himself to death with a pencil for what he said about Infantino and Kubert. Here's hoping Joe Kubert will get a crack at the J.S.A. Showcase team ups.

Don Foote Central YMCA 100 Gibbs St. Rochester, N. Y. 14601

Comics for sale. Most all are in very good to mint condition, unless otherwise noted. Issues up for bid can be had for either trade or cash offers, whichever interests me most. No deadline for bids. The first good one that reaches me gets the comic. Alternates appreciated. 15¢ on orders under $1.

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Daredevil 12(origin of Claw)..bid
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Spirit(Fiction House) 2..$1
Spy Smasher 10..$4
Superman 30(first Mr. Mxyztplk..mint) ..$4; 33,34,36,38,43..$2; 44,49..$1.50
Tales of Suspense 1(Al Williamson art, 1959)..$1
Tarzan(Dell) 5..$2
Wonder Woman 2..$3.50
World's Best 1(v.g.)..bid
World's Finest 7..bid
Wow 30..$1
Young Allies 8,12..bid on each
Zip 20(MLJ..Origin of Hero, Blackjack.. Very good shape..Also Steel Sterling) ..bid
Ibis the Invincible 1942(mint).. a 5" by 4" black & white 32-page comic..bid

Batman 15,19-21..$3.50; 23,25..$3; 27-31..$2.50; 32,33,37..$2; 44(cover traced from original)..$1; 45,46..$1.50

Capt. Marvel 5(no cover)..$2; 13(center pages out)..$4; 15-17..$5; 23-38 $3.50(this set contains chapters 2-17 of Mr. Mind serial and is $55 the lot. Most issues are v.g. to mint); 48,49..$2

Military(Blackhawk) 8..$6.50; 18,19..$4; 25,27,29,30,31..$3.50; 34(eight center pages out)..$1; 40,41,43,44,45,48..$2.50

Police 1(very good condition..origins of Plastic Man and Human Bomb)..$30; 25,27-37..$3; 39-49..$2.50; 50,52-54,59..$1.50

Recent DC's For Sale..25¢ each unless otherwise marked: Action 227..35¢; 278; Batman 157,159; Big Town 9..35¢; Blackhawk 140,165-169; Bob Hope 54, 68,75; Detective 230..35¢; 295,305,309,314,316,319; Flash 113..50¢; 124, 128..35¢; G.I. Combat 84; House of Mystery 11..35¢; Jerry Lewis 75; Jimmy Olsen 57,60,61; JLA 9(no cover),21; Lois Lane 13..35¢; 17,29; Our Army at War 98; Our Fighting Forces 26; Sea Devils 2..35¢; Showcase 34(Atom origin) ..75¢; 36..50¢; 39; SS War Stories 93,94; Superman 116(pages out),159,163; Tales of Unexpected 68; World's Finest 134,136..Alternates appreciated....

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Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

TCR #32
Glen D. Johnson
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87313

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1st Class Mail

To-

Larry Herndon
1830 Highland
Carrollton, Texas

Last iss #32

An opinionated letter here for THE COMIC READER. Much has been printed as of late as to the merits of various comic book artists and much controversy has arisen because of same. I now add to that controversy. Some want Kubert on Batman, some do not. D.C. could take a page from Stan Lee's book and hire an old E.C. artist whose style mostly resembles Kane's of the early forties. Does anyone know where Johnny Craig is now? Going a little further I recall reading in a recent issue of Castle of Frankenstein an article declaring Reed Crandell as one of the finest of the old comic book artists and so he was, but, who were the GREATEST ? Say, the TEN GREATEST. Well, I have my idea on the thing and here it is for what it's worth. Now fandom as it has developed seems to be primarily interested in the costume heroes of the World War Two era on back, so I will confine my consensus to artists who did such strips of that era. I don't think anyone truthfully could deny the later E.C. efforts as the finest art of all but we'll stick to the type art I've mentioned. In picking these artists I've taken into account not only their abilities at the rendering of a picture but the inspiration that lay in their work. The influence they had on other aspiring artists, their contributions as pioneers in certain methods and artistic aspects and techniques. The quantity of their work I did not consider because many things could contribute to this aspect of the thing that would have nothing to do with the merits of the artists. You can't consider the artist of the newspaper strips as this is art from another medium and was a more demanding type thing. So, considering anatomy, backgrounds, colors, shading, design, composition, inspiration, influence, experimentation, and other indiginous decrees I do hereby consider the following named artists as the TEN GREATEST to display their wares on the pages of the comic books.

Yours Truly, Ed Lehmann.

MY TOP TEN...

1. Lou Fine, a true genius at his trade.
2. Reed Crandell, craftsmanship supreme.
3. Joe Kubert, he can do it all.
4. Will Eisner, the great experimenter.
5. Mac Raybov, aritst of the body beautiful.
6. Jesse March, master of design.
7. Jack Cole, Mr. Motion.
8. Bob Fujie, magnificent grotesque.
9. Basil Wolverton, simplicity unique.
10. The other fellows favorite, for without him, art would have been stillborn.

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I would like to start a round-robin letter hacking group who have a desire to communicate with other comic fans. I will be the coordinator for all the different robins. For those who don't know anything about round-robins, they are a group of people usually made up of five people. The first writes a letter and then sends it on to person 2, person 2 comments on #1 letters and adds ideas of his own, #2 sends it to #3 who does the same.

I have found round-robins loads of fun and a great place to express ideas, feelings, & chit-chat to other fans whom you might never know. If anyone is at all interested, please write me expressing a desire to do this.

Stephen Barr, Box 305, Nocona, Texas 76255

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A FREE SERVICE TO ALL FAN EDITORS. If the next issue of your fanzine is going to be late, let me know, and I'll mention this in TCR. Remember, this is just for zines that are due out later than announced.